the regulatory procedures in biotechnology and ensure that the country is able to tap its potential to the maximum extent;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has emerged as one of the biotech leaders in the Asia-Pacific region according to the recently released global biotech report; and

(c) in what manner Government are thinking of making India a biotech outsourcing hub in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Madam, Government of India had constituted Task Force on 'Applications on Agricultural Biotechnology' and 'Recombinant Pharma Sector' to suggest modifications in the existing regulatory procedures in agriculture and pharmaceutical areas in order to simplify and streamline the regulatory procedures for speedy introduction of biotech products. The report of the Task Force on 'Applications on Agricultural Biotechnology' is under consideration of the Government and the Task Force on 'Recombinant Pharma Sector' is yet to submit its report.

(b) Yes, according to Ernst and Young Global Biotech Report, India is ranked at 3rd position in the Asia-Pacific region based on the number of biotech companies established in the country.

(c) The Government is continously providing administrative, financial and infrastructure support for promotion of Indian Biotech industry. With its abundant high quality-low cost technical manpower, partnership between industry and academia and also with foreign collaborators in contract research, manufacturing, co-marketing, technology transfer and joint research and development agreements particularly in bio-pharmaceutical area India is emerging as biotech outsourcing hub.

Opportunities for outsourcing in Genetic Engineering

1011. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are ample opportunities for outsourcing in genetic engineering from USA and other advanced countries of the world;

(b) if so, in what manner his Ministry is planning to gear itself to meet the requirements of outsourcing;

(c) the total number of biotechnology seats at the Post Graduate level in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether Government are thinking of increasing the number of seats in the faculty of biotechnology; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology is the administrative ministry for the biotech industry and has taken several steps for promoting growth of the industry. Outsourcing is being done mainly in terms of contract research, contract manufacturing and clinical trials. These bio-services are very innovative, capital intensive and involve lot of R&D. Department of Biotechnology has promoted setting-up of biotech parks and provided high quality manpower training for promoting growth of bio service sector, which include medicinal chemistry, antibody production, cloning and expression and drug discovery.

(c) State-wise list for biotechnology seats at Post Graduate level in the country, supported by various Central Government Agencies (Department of Biotechnology, University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education) is given below:

(As on 01-04-2004)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of Seats
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67
2.	Assam	22
3.	Chhattisgarh	10
4.	Delhi	104
5.	Gujarat	57
6.	Goa	20
7.	Himachal Pradesh	37
8.	Haryana	24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20
10.	Jharkhand	12

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of Seats
11.	Karnataka	66
12.	Kerala	12
13.	Maharashtra	91
14.	Madhya Pradesh	60
15.	Orissa	32
16.	Punjab	42
17.	Pondicherry	10
18.	Rajasthan	25
19.	Tamil Nadu	160
20.	Uttar Pradesh	146
21.	Uttaranchal	54
22.	UT-Chandigarh	10
23.	West Bengal	83
	TOTAL:	1164

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Earthquake vulnerability of Delhi

1012. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have warned against earthquakes and called for review vulnerability map of Delhi to avert major disaster as reported in Tribune of 8th April, 2004;

(b) the ground situation thereof alongwith Seismic developments; and

(c) the brief summary of the disaster management for high rise buildings/flats and weak structures along with the likely fallout on unauthorized construction indulged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) As there is no scientific method to forecast occurrence of eathquake anywhere in the world, prior warning